

Army Reserve

Fall 2000



*The Gulf War
10 years 'after the storm'*



Army Reserve

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Since 1954. America's largest circulating military magazine

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www.army.mil/usar/armag/armag.htm

Correction: In the Training Special Edition of Army Reserve magazine, page 20, the 335th Theater signal Command was mistakenly identified as the 355th Theater Signal Command.



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Front Cover: A mother weeps as she holds onto her child after her husband departs for Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. A new arrival in the Persian gulf. A young spectator during the National Victory Celebration parade honoring the coalition forces of Desert Storm. **Back Cover:** Fireworks light up the night sky above the Lincoln Memorial at the conclusion of the Celebration. **Right:** One of many wives and loved ones seeing a Reservist off during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



The Persian Gulf Conflict

What a Difference a Decade Makes

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes



This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Persian Gulf Conflict. This was a turning point for the modern Army Reserve in many ways.

For one thing, it dramatically demonstrated to the world that the Army Reserve was a vastly different force from what it was in the post-Vietnam era.

Twenty years before DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the Army Reserve was in sad shape. The failed attempt by Secretary of Defense

Robert McNamara to merge the USAR and the Army National Guard, combined with the Johnson Administration's decision not to mobilize the reserve components, resulted in a force neglected and forgotten. Our equipment had been stripped for the war fighters in Vietnam. We could not modernize nor attract the recruits we needed. Seventy percent of USAR Centers were inadequate.

Leaders came forward at this point, men with vision like Army Chiefs of Staff Creighton Abrams and Fred Weyand, who were determined to make the Army Reserve so essential to the Army that it could never be overlooked again. And that is just exactly what happened. The proof of this came in 1990.

When the Army started to move out to the Persian Gulf, USAR soldiers, on their own, started to report to ports. They knew they were needed now by the Army. Official orders could follow.

Those orders did come and they came quickly. The Army knew what capabilities the Army Reserve had and it knew that without us, it could not get its forces in place to defend Saudi Arabia, sustain them there or conduct offensive operations.

More than 84,000 citizen-soldiers of the Army Reserve were mobilized to support Desert Shield and then Desert Storm. This was the largest call-up since the Korean War 40 years earlier. Army Reserve men and women performed magnificently in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and at home. All of our veterans can be rightly proud of what they did for the victory over Saddam Hussein.

As dramatic as was our role during the conflict, what happened after the conflict is even more dramatic because we see the results of that every day.

The Persian Gulf War was a return to the traditional use of the Army Reserve. A conflict is thrust upon us, as in Korea, or is approaching, as in World War II, and the USAR is called upon. When the conflict ends, Army

Reservists go home and wait for the next emergency.

Those who have served in the USAR since 1991 know we have not been doing much waiting. The Army Reserve has been kept constantly in use since the Gulf War. The United States has not been in a constant state of war since 1991 but we have been busy preventing war, bringing peace to troubled regions, providing humanitarian assistance and doing numerous other things.

Yes, one reason we are so busy is that the Army got smaller after the Gulf War and needed the Army Reserve to do all its missions. We, too, got smaller. The Army Reserve today is more than 36 percent smaller than it was ten years ago. We also underwent a major transformation in structure during that decade, turning ourselves into a more streamlined force better able to carry out the increased workload.

Fewer soldiers and more missions are not the primary reasons for the end of the USAR as a "for emergency use only" organization. I believe the main reason for our increased use is that Army Reserve units and soldiers have shown and continue to show every day that we can do the job and do it very well. We do the job so well that we are no longer an afterthought; in case after case, we are many times the first choice. We are a first choice ready at the beginning, which is another reason for increased use.

Again, what we do are not just those "only needed in wartime" skills. We do those things, of course, but we also provide the capabilities and support the Army and the Nation need continuously, in peace and war, in garrison and in the field. It is not mere rhetoric when our leaders say that the Army cannot do its missions without the Army Reserve, it is a simple statement of fact.

The essential, engaged and ready Army Reserve of today is a legacy of the Army Reserve of the Gulf War. As we work to transform the Army and the Army Reserve, we shall not forget that legacy or the citizen-soldiers who gave it to us.



Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray Lackey (right) pose with representatives of the twelve Army Reserve units recognized

at the 15th annual Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Award Ceremony, held in Washington, DC, August 31.

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Saluting outstanding Army Reserve soldiers

Command Sgt. Maj. Alex R. Lackey



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the fine individuals who participated in the first Outstanding Soldier and NCO of the Year competition held in Washington, D.C. recently. Soldiers and NCOs representing the Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM), Office of the Chief, Army Reserve and National Capital Region (OCAR/NCR), U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC), U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), 7th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) and 9th Regional Support Command (RSC) took part in the event.

Through hard work and dedication, each command's top NCO or soldier earned a trip to the nation's capital to compete for top honors. During that visit each soldier was escorted by a member of the Old Guard for a tour of the White House, Arlington Cemetery, lunch in the Executive Dining Room, and a tour of the Pentagon ending at the Office of the Chief Army Reserve. A reception was held in their honor with Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley as guest speaker.

Following the Soldier and NCO of the Year Boards an awards ceremony and dinner was held, during which the Outstanding NCO and Soldier of the Year were announced. The winners were SFC Juan Cerda, from 75th Division (Training Support), NCO of the Year, and SPC Clinton Newman, from the 7th ARCOM, Soldier of the Year.

Both received a \$250.00 voucher from the Army, Air Force Exchange

Service (AAFES), a set of Marlow White dress blues from Armed Forces Insurance (AFI), a gold watch from Association of the United States Army (AUSA), a gold watch from Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO), a Marble plaque from the Non-commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) and a \$1000.00 Savings Bond from USAA.

Other outstanding soldiers and NCOs and the commands they represented were:

Spec. Sean Cripps, Co. D, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, 9th RSC.

Spec. Dwayne Wood, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command.

Sgt. Roger Riggs, 1st Battalion, 382nd Regiment, 75th Division (Training Support), USARC.

Staff Sgt. Mary Moodey, 3747th Training Brigade, 7th ARCOM.

Staff Sgt. Marvin Rowe, 1984th U.S. Army Hospital, 9th RSC.

Sgt. 1st Class Karen Henderson, OCAR/NCR

Sgt. 1st Class Vada Turner, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 94th RSC, USARC.

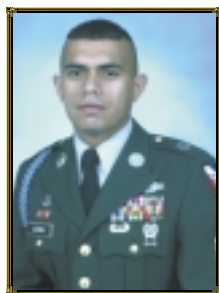
Sgt. 1st Class Arla Tweedy, AR-PERSCOM.

All Soldiers and NCOs participating in this event received the book "Twice the Citizen," signed by Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief Army Reserve.

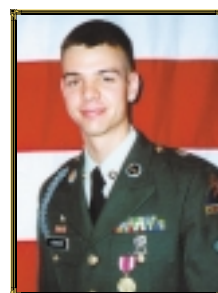
I would like to thank the sponsors of this event: Army Reserve Association, AUSA, GEICO and USAA for offsetting the cost of the Soldiers and NCOs reception, breaks and dinner. Command Sgt. Maj. Aubrey Butts and the OLD Guard provided transportation and tours.

OUTSTANDING SOLDIERS

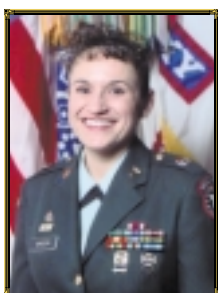
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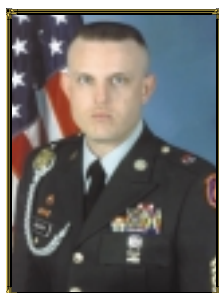
NCO of the Year
Sgt. 1st Class Juan Cerda



Soldier of the Year
SPC Clinton Newman



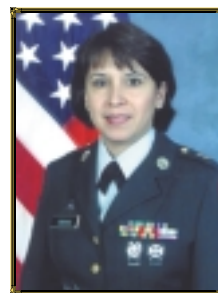
Recruiter of the Year
Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Green



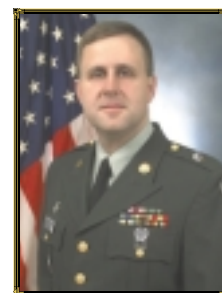
AGR Instructor of the Year
Sgt. 1st Class John Gregory



Drill Sergeant of the Year
Staff Sgt. Christopher Sharpe



TPU Instructor of the Year
Sgt. 1st Class Elicia Gibbons



Career Counselor of the Year
Staff Sgt. Franklin May

News Update

Army, VA form health alliance for Reserve components

WASHINGTON—Up to 15,000 U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers can now receive physical examinations, immunizations and dental screening at more than 10,000 participating Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and Federal Occupational Health providers.

The Federal Strategic Health Alliance program, or FEDS-HEAL, is being implemented following last year's successful pilot program between the VA and the 81st Regional Support Command in the southeastern United States, said Maj. Don Donahue, medical operations officer for the Chief of the Army Reserve.

The FEDS-HEAL initiative is designed to be a cost-effective source of services for the Guard and Reserve. The successful pilot was based on a comprehensive program model developed by the Office of the Army Surgeon General. The model projected all medical and dental services required by law for reservists and priced them at a competitive rate for the entire nation.

Reservists can receive medical and dental services from Federal Occupational Health providers as well as participating Veterans Affairs medical facilities near their homes, work or Army drill neighborhoods, Donahue said.

"This program will eliminate the need for reservists to travel, sometimes hundreds of miles, to receive medical services at a mil-

See VA, page 30

DOD to survey Reservists, spouses

WASHINGTON—Between August and November 2000, the Department of Defense (DoD) will conduct its first comprehensive satisfaction surveys of military Reserve force personnel and their spouses in eight years. A survey questionnaire is being mailed to 75,000 drilling reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, (IMAs) and full-time support personnel from the Reserve and National Guard. A different questionnaire is being sent to 43,000 spouses.

In a first for the Reserves, recipients are able to return the written questionnaires or respond via the Internet.

"The surveys are an important tool because, in recent years, the increased use of the National Guard and Reserve has resulted in many of these personnel spending more time away from their families and full-time civilian employment," said Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "They also face the real possibility of being called to active duty for extended periods, creating some unique quality-of-life concerns."

The surveys will gather information on a wide range of programs, policies and issues affecting Reserve forces members and spouses. Survey responses will provide a comprehensive look at morale, civilian work, economic issues, military training, military benefits and programs, mobilizations and deployments, plans to

See SURVEY, page 30

From the commissary to your home safely

(Editor's Note: For Reservists who take advantage of their commissary shopping privilege, following are some helpful tips for purchasing and transporting your groceries)

By Herb Greene

FORT LEE, Va.—Even though the folks at your friendly commissary want you to think of them first when it comes to grocery shopping, in one special way they want you to shop with them last. This is especially true in the hot days of summer. Why? It's a matter of food safety.

"During the heat of the summer months, perishable food will spoil much quicker if it is left in the back of your car rather than stored safely in your refrigerator," said Jack Moye, a food safety specialist with the Defense Commissary Agency's Office of Food Safety.

So what to do? It's a very easy matter of scheduling your grocery shopping. Making a shopping trip to get groceries and coming straight home is probably the safest way to avoid food spoilage and all that goes with it. Get to the commissary; get groceries; get home. It's a snap, but it's not always possible. Most of us buy groceries, pick up prescription medicines, shop the exchange and run other errands while we are out. Shopping the commissary last in the sequence is the answer. There are some things to remember while you shop, too.

Buy your meats and frozen foods at the last toot of the horn before heading to the checkout. Perishable foods can get a good start on spoiling if you place them in your grocery cart first and then leisurely shop the commissary. Frozen food should be frozen solid (i.e. the same texture and feel as a rock only colder).

There is one more safety precaution you should take.

"If you are a shopper who lives a long distance from the commissary, you should take an ice-filled cooler large enough to hold the foods which might spoil on your drive back home," said Chris Wicker, a DeCA food safety specialist. "Driving time without the cooler should be no more than 30 minutes in the winter and 15 minutes in the summer."

There you have it, a simple way to buy food and get it home safely. And hey! You will still save a ton of money on your grocery purchases even if you do shop the commissary last!

Important Telephone Numbers

Military members with questions regarding their pay must address them to their local finance and administrative office. The local military pay office is the best source of information.

Active Duty Pay (Indianapolis)	1-317-510-2800
Reserve Pay (Indianapolis)	1-317-510-2800
Retiree Pay (Cleveland)	1-800-321-1080
Annuity Pay (Denver)	1-800-435-3396
Garnishment (Cleveland)	1-216-522-5301
Out of Service Debt (Denver)	1-800-962-0648
Vendor Pay (Indianapolis)	1-888-332-7366

New TRICARE Dental Program announced

Enhanced benefits for reservists, family members, comparable to active duty plan



By Maj. Melody Maynard

WASHINGTON—The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) (Health Affairs) announced recently that a new TRICARE Dental Plan (TDP) was awarded to United Concordia Companies, Inc. in April of this year. The program goes into effect February 1, 2001. The benefit limits are increased from the current TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP) and an orthodontic benefit has been added.

The new TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) is open to all Uniformed Service active duty and Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) family members, members of the Selected Reserve and their family members, and members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and their family members. The program combines the Active Duty Dependents Dental Plan also known as the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan (TFMDP), and the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP). The previous TSRDP plan offered benefits only to drilling reservists.

Enrollment

Eligibility for the TDP is continuous in situations where the sponsor or member changes status between any of the eligible categories and there is no break in service or transfer to a non-eligible status. Enrollment requires at least a one-year (12 months) service commitment (active duty, reserve service or combination of the two) at the time of enrollment.

Under the TDP, all eligible family members of a sponsor must be enrolled if any one of them is enrolled. Exceptions to this enrollment requirement include:

- children ages one to three may be voluntarily enrolled and
- a sponsor may elect to enroll only those eligible family members residing in one location when the member has eligible family members residing in two or more geographically separate locations.

Single or Family Enrollment

Enrollment shall be on a single or family basis.

Single. A single enrollment is one (1) covered eligible beneficiary. This includes one (1) active duty family member, the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve member or one (1) Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve family member.

Family. Family enrollment is two (2) or more covered eligible family members. This includes two (2) or more active duty family members or two (2) or more Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve family members. A member of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve does not have to be enrolled in order for his or her eligible dependents to enroll in the TDP.

(Note: A Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve sponsor may enroll independently of their family members. Alternatively, a Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve sponsor may enroll their eligible family members and not themselves. Due to the government subsidy distribution in payment of the premium, if a Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve and his/her family members enroll, there will be two policies under the same Social Security Number.)

Types of plans

There are two types of plans: 1) Premium sharing plan and 2) Full premium plan:

Premium sharing plan. The enrollee pays forty (40%) of the monthly premium and the government pays sixty (60%) of the monthly premium. Family members of active duty, members of the Selected Reserve, members enrolled in the Individual Ready Reserve Activation Authority (IRAA)*, and families of reservists who are on active duty for more than 30 days are eligible for the premium sharing plan.

Full premium plan. The monthly premiums are the responsibility of the service member; the government does not share in the premium payments. Enrollment in this plan is available to members of the Individual Ready Reserve and dependents of Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve members when the Guardsmen or Reservist is not on active duty for more than 30 days.

Monthly premiums

Premiums will vary based upon the type of plan you and your family are enrolled in (i.e. single or family plan). The government may pay 60% of the premium depending on the status of the sponsor. Additionally, there is a survivor's benefit (if eligible) and the government will pay 100% of premiums.

Premium sharing plan (single). The enrollee's monthly premium for single coverage is \$7.63. The government's cost share will be \$11.45.

Premium sharing plan (family). The sponsor's monthly premium for family coverage is \$19.08. The government's cost share will be \$28.61.

Full premium plan (single). The enrollee's monthly premium for single coverage is \$19.08.

Full premium plan (family). The sponsor's monthly premium for family coverage is \$47.69.

NOTE: The award is for one year with five one-year option periods. The contract year (option period) is from 1 February through 31 December. The premiums are expected to vary slightly from year-to-year.

Premium Payment Method

Payroll deduction. Premium is deducted from member/sponsor's payroll account.

Direct billing. The contractor will directly bill those enrollees who do not have an active payroll account or have insufficient funds in that account. Once the contractor direct bills, this will continue until disenrollment or until the end of the contract.

Reservists currently enrolled in TSRDP will automatically be transitioned to the new program when it goes into effect. Coverage for the family members is not automatic and requires separate enrollment. Enrollment information is expected to be available in October.

For additional information regarding the new program, visit the following website: <http://www.army.mil/usar>. Then on the drop down menus, select: Guidance, Tricare, Tricare Dental Program

(Maj. Maynard is with the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve Personnel Division.)

Passing the test: The Army Reserve in

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

On August 2, 1990, Iraq launched a full-scale invasion across the borders of its smaller, oil-rich neighbor, Kuwait.

This act of aggression would lead to the biggest test of the U.S. Army Reserve since a similar surprise attack forty years earlier, that of the North Korean invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950.

Unlike 1950, when neither the active Army nor the Army Reserve were prepared for war, this time the active Army was trained and ready to respond — and depending on an equally trained and ready Army Reserve.

Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM would see a validation of the modern Army Reserve, which had been designed to correct the mistakes of its non-use in the Vietnam War. The “Total Force” Army Reserve was no longer a “force in reserve,” now it was part of the starting line-up from the beginning.

On August 8, the 2nd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, the division ready brigade, deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Its mission was to help defend Saudi Arabia in case Iraq, having overrun Kuwait, decided to continue its aggression. The build-up for Operation DESERT SHIELD had begun.

Following the 2nd Brigade was the rest of the 82nd Airborne Division and then the rest of XVIII Airborne Corps. Helping them load the equipment, essential to stopping any Iraqi armored attack, were USAR volunteers of the Military Transportation Management Command's Terminal Transportation Units. Knowing they would be needed to ship out the Army's heavy units, they began reporting for duty at strategic ports on August 13.

By August 22, when President George Bush issued an executive order authorizing the call-up of units and individuals of the Selected Reserve, 390 Army Reservists had already voluntarily been placed on active duty to provide their critical skills to the build-up for the operation.

Besides these volunteers, a USAR power projection unit was already on duty



Capt. (Dr.) Gamaliel Rodrigues, a dentist assigned to the 402nd Enemy Prisoner of War Camp, pulls some badly rotted teeth from an Iraqi POW.

Photo by Sgt. Deborah Walker

before the call-up order went out. The 1185th Transportation Terminal Unit from Lancaster, Pa., had been scheduled to perform its annual training in Wilmington, N.C., in early August. When the XVIII Airborne Corps started to move out, the 1185th was diverted to Savannah, Ga., where it worked from August 12-25 to ship out the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division from nearby Fort Stewart. The division was on its way to the Persian Gulf six days after it was alerted.

The 1185th stayed on active duty until July 23, 1991. It did its work at ports at Wilmington, N.C., Newport News, Va., Bayonne, N.J., Sunny Point, N.C. and Rotterdam, Holland. At the latter port, it helped load up VII Corps and send it to the Gulf. The 1185th has the distinction of having worked in more ports than any other Terminal Transportation Unit during DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM.

With the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up on Aug. 22, more than 84,000 Army Reserve soldiers provided combat support and combat service support to the Army in the Persian Gulf, in Europe and stateside.

The Army Reserve provided the majority of water purification and distribution, civil affairs support, enemy prisoner of war handling, postal operations, petroleum handling and psychological operations during the war.

Among the other USAR units deployed to the Persian Gulf were chemical decontamination, medical, transportation, military police, military history, public affairs, maintenance and engineer.

A few facts and figures highlight the importance of the USAR's role in the Gulf War:

- * By the end of Operation DESERT STORM, 60 percent of the troops in the 22nd Support Command were USAR soldiers.

- * By the beginning of the ground phase, 16 USAR Civil Affairs units had been deployed to the theater. There were 136 active component CA soldiers in theater at this time and 1,924 USAR CA soldiers.

- * Almost 19,000 USAR medical soldiers were mobilized. Of that number, more than 8,000 deployed to Southwest Asia, some 3,000 went to Europe to backfill active component soldiers there and the remainder stayed in the United States as backfills and to prepare for the heavy casualties predicted.

- * Seventy-four USAR medical units deployed to Southwest Asia, with Army Reservists making up 37 percent of medical personnel in theater.

- * Twenty of the 97 engineer units in theater at war's end were USAR.

- * The only military police brigade devoted to enemy prisoner of war (EPW) handling was the Army Reserve's 800th MP Brigade (EPW) from New York City. The



Photo by Lt. Col. Debbie Haston-Hilger

Soldiers of the 724th Trans. Co., Peoria, Ill., play football with Saudi bus drivers shortly after their arrival in the desert.



The 316th Quartermaster Company distributes water at an XVIII Airborne Corps site in central Saudi Arabia. The 316th, an Army Reserve unit from

the Gulf War

brigade established and operated four EPW camps and processed some 70,000 Iraqi prisoners.

* Ten of the USAR's 16 postal companies were mobilized. One went to Fort Dix, N.J., to handle operations there. Of the 13 postal units in Southwest Asia, nine were from the Army Reserve.

* Of the nine fire-fighting units in theater, four were Army Reserve. Of six well-drilling units, two were USAR. Of eight Military History Detachments, four were USAR.

* It was not just troop units that were mobilized. Almost 21,000 members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) were ordered to involuntary active duty to fill shortages in critical skills such as water purification, military police, fuel handling, as well as combat arms specialties. More than 2,360 Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) were also called to active duty. Many of the call-ups were voluntary: some 12,000 IRR and IMA soldiers called in to the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) in St. Louis, Mo., volunteering for active duty.

* One of the most unusual missions given to an Army Reserve Civil Affairs unit was that given to Task Force PSYOP: capture an Iraqi airfield. Because of the February 27 ceasefire, the commander of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, could not use combat forces to seize Tallil Air Base. Instead he created Task Force PSYOP — elements of the 450th CA Company, a detachment of the 4th Psychological Operations Group and some Kuwaiti interpreters — and told the 450th commander to take the air base. The task force made its way to the base, seized the control tower and began broadcasting surrender appeals to the Iraqi base defenders. There was some small arms fire at the task force but soon fifty-two Iraqis surrendered and 100 fled into the desert. TF PSYOP captured the base, complete with 20 operational jet aircraft, five attack helicopters and tons of ammunition.

The ground phase of DESERT STORM began on Feb. 24, 1991, and 100 hours later, when President Bush ordered a ceasefire, the Iraqis were utterly defeated, having lost 3,847 of 4,280 tanks, more than half of their 2,880 armored personnel carriers and nearly all of their 3,100 artillery pieces. Tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers had been captured.

American casualties to achieve this stunning victory had been 148 killed in action. A significant number of those killed in action were Army Reserve men and women. They were killed in a painful reminder that in modern war, it is not always the frontline troops who get hit the hardest.

On Feb. 25, 1991, an Iraqi SCUD missile, a terror weapon little advanced from the V-2 rockets of World War II, hit a barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Twenty-eight American soldiers were killed in the blast and 100 wounded. The soldiers killed in action were Army Reservists.

Thirteen of the dead and 43 of the wounded are from the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, a water purification unit from Greensburg, Pa. The unit had been in Saudi Arabia only six days. The casualties suffered by the 14th QM Detachment were the greatest incurred by any Army unit or any allied unit in the Gulf War. This was also



An Army Reserve historical painting

San Diego, Ca., distributed 8.4 million gallons of water during the Persian Gulf War and in support of Kurdish relief efforts in northern Iraq.



Photo by Lt. Col. Debbie Haston-Higer

Spec. Virginia Domaine, 724th Trans. Co., from Peoria, Ill., sleeps atop her bags after the 28-hour trip from the U.S. to Saudi Arabia.

the greatest loss by a single Army unit since Vietnam. The 56 casualties taken by the 69 men and women in the unit makes it percentage-wise (more than 80%) one of the hardest hit units in U.S. military history.

Victory over Iraq was not the end of the Reserve's role in Southwest Asia. The same power projection units that had been instrumental in moving the Army to Saudi Arabia now had to get the Army home. Other USAR soldiers found themselves busy with the aftermath of war, such as helping Kuwait recover from months of Iraqi occupation and the destruction inflicted when the Iraqi Army fled from Kuwait. The Kurdish relief effort in northern Iraq, Operation PROVIDE COMFORT, also involved a number of USAR units.

Eventually, the citizen-soldiers mobilized for the Gulf War came home and were demobilized. Many took part in well-earned welcome home parades from a citizenry proud of their accomplishments.

The Army Reserve found itself given a renewed respect and appreciation for what its units and its soldiers could achieve. The decade that followed would see a tremendous transformation from the "old" Army Reserve. The force got smaller and more streamlined, while simultaneously becoming busier and more engaged worldwide than ever before. No longer was the Army Reserve seen as a "for emergency use only" organization. Its success in the Gulf War resulted in USAR capabilities being continuously in demand, at home and abroad.

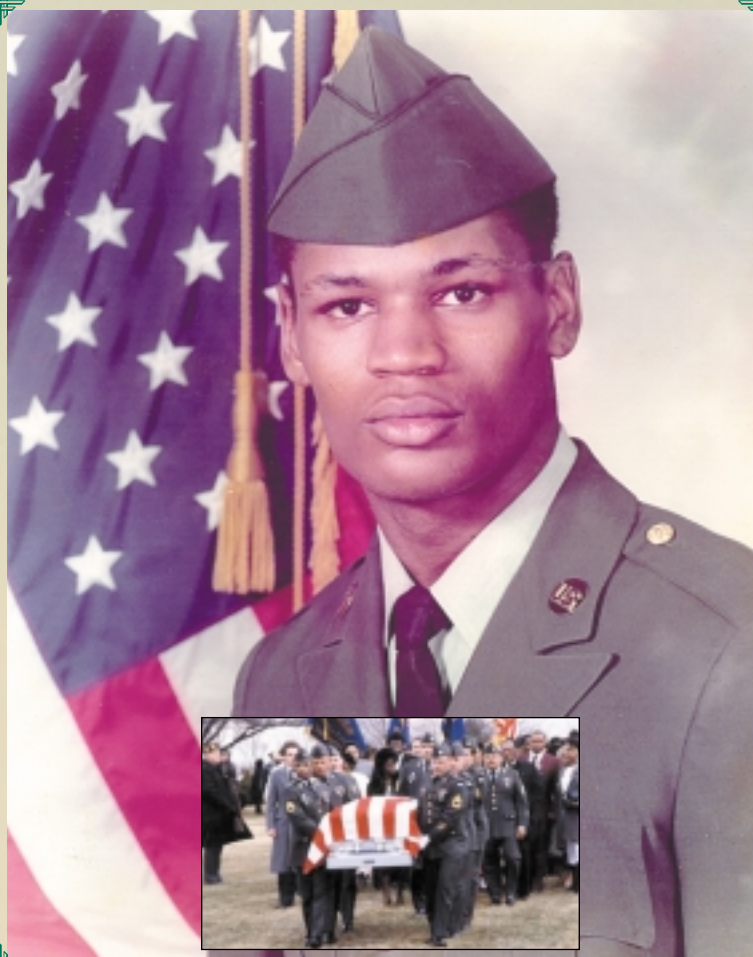
The Army Reserve of 2000 is a dramatically different Army Reserve than it was in 1990 and 1991; however, the sort of men and women who answered the country's call then are the same sort of citizen-soldiers who meet our Nation's needs now. Today's Army Reservists continue the legacy of the victors of Operation DESERT STORM.

(Lt. Col. Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.)

**See related
Desert Shield & Desert Storm
Anniversary
feature and photos
pages 10-17**

Desert Shield, Desert Storm

NAACP, Army Reserve,



(Clockwise from left) Spc. Anthony Madison, 14th Quartermaster Detachment, who was killed in action during Operation Desert Storm. (inset) Madison's funeral. Maj. Gen. Rodney Ruddock (right), Commander, 99th RSC, honors Madison's family during a ceremony aboard the Keystone State by presenting Madison's daughter Tacarra, and son, Anthony Jr., with commander's coins. Keystone State, the largest barge-derrick in today's Army is docked at Baltimore's Inner Harbor in support of the NAACP Convention. Chief Warrant Officer Farrell Chiles shakes hands with President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP Kweisi Mfume. Staff Sgt. Jerome Taylor, 949th TC, and Chiles dance to the songs of the 307th Army Band, with children touring the Keystone State. The 99th RSC commander is shown here with Madison's family, from the left, son, Anthony Jr.; daughter, Tacarra; and wife, Leann. Staff Sgt. Brian Neukum, 307th Army Band, sounds Taps across Baltimore's Inner Harbor, during the ceremony. U.S. Department of Defense representative Jimmy Love shows his respect during the National Anthem.

U.S. Army Reserve photo



Story and Photos by Jack Gordon

BALTIMORE—"It makes me feel really good now ... to know that my husband has not been forgotten," said Leann Madison, "and that people still care about him and about us."

Madison lost her husband, Spc. Anthony Madison, during Operation Desert Storm almost 10 years ago.

"It's still hard," Madison said. "We'll never forget him."

Madison and her children, Anthony Jr., and Tacarra, were honored guests at the NAACP convention in June, where the Army Reserve also remembered Specialist Madison, a 99th RSC soldier. He was among 27 others who were killed during a Scud missile attack in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on Feb. 25, 1991, during the war's final hours. More soldiers were lost during the war from the ranks of the Army Reserve than from those of the active Army component, underscoring the dedication to duty of Army Reserve soldiers.

Madison served with the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, a Reserve unit from Greensburg, Pa., assigned to a water purification mission in support of Operation Desert Storm. The unit had only arrived in the Southwest Asia Theater a week before, and was awaiting its equipment and mission order when the missile struck.

In the single, most devastating enemy action of the war, 27 soldiers

were killed and 100 were wounded. Thirteen of the soldiers killed-in-action, and 43 of those wounded-in-action were actually assigned to the 14th. Replacement soldiers from other units were also being housed in the transient barracks at the time.

Madison and her children were recognized by both organizations as supportive family representatives of the African-American soldier, receiving the commander's coin.

"I reserve these coins for only those soldiers and patriotic citizens who have given something special to America," said Maj. Gen. Rodney D. Ruddock, Commander, 99th Regional Support Command.

"These children have given something very special to America," Ruddock noted before presenting Madison's two children with his coin.

The ceremony was conducted aboard the deck of Keystone State, the largest barge-derrick in the Army. Moved from its homeport at nearby Curtis Bay by a 949th Transportation Company tugboat, BD 681 is capable of transferring heavy vehicles or equipment from offshore ships to unimproved ports during military movements or emergency response operations.

Keystone State is appropriately named for the soldiers of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, a Pennsylvania unit whose lives were lost in

honor Reservist killed in action, salute families



Photo by Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

the Scud
a t t a c k .
Madison was
the only

African-American soldier from the 14th who was killed-in-action.

"It's important for us (949th Transportation Co. soldiers)—and an honor to be here today in support of those soldiers for whom Keystone State is named, and for Mrs. Madison and her children," said 1st Sgt. Levi Maynard, 949th Transportation Co.

The unit operates a small fleet of tugboats and Keystone State, as uniquely qualified "waterborne" Army Reserve engineers.

Convention visitors, curious tourists and interested locals were also treated to guided tours aboard Keystone State, where they viewed a historical display of the 14th's soldiers and events during Operation Desert Storm.

The NAACP recognized Madison's duty and sacrifice as representative of that performed by thousands of African-Americans who have proudly and honorably served in America's Armed Forces.

"It's important to recognize the relationship the NAACP has with the Dept. of Defense," said Jeff Johnson, NAACP spokesman. "We appreciate the role that all of the elements in the Dept. of Defense have played in attempting to ensure (racial) equality within our armed services."

"On behalf of all America, we are indebted to your husband for making the ultimate sacrifice for his country," said program Master of Ceremonies Chief Warrant Officer Farrell Chiles, DCSPER, HQ, 63rd RSC. "But we also recognize the sacrifices you have made as a family. Those Americans who gave their lives in the desert of Southwest Asia are reminders to us that freedom is not always free."

When a monument for the 14th Quartermaster Detachment was dedicated at the unit's Army Reserve Center in Greensburg, Pa., on Feb. 25, 1992, one year after the tragedy, then Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey said of the 14th's soldiers:

"They were all of us – a high school football star, a lover of country music, future homemakers of America, secretaries and salesmen, writers and fishermen, postal workers and volunteer firemen, friends, lovers, father, son, brothers, and two of our daughters." The color of their skin ... did not matter. They were, one and all ... soldiers.

After a solemn moment, the bugler from the 99th's 307th Army Band, sounded Taps across the waters of the Inner Harbor. The somber notes reminding all again, that freedom is indeed ... not always ... free.

See NAACP, page 30

Desert Shield, Desert

Before the storm



Photo courtesy Ft. McCoy PAO

MOPping up: The chemical warfare threat in the Middle East required that all soldiers undergo intensive Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare training before being deployed.



On the ground:

Four soldiers walk around their camp wearing rain suits, gloves and M-17A1 protective masks as they try to acclimate their bodies to the heat of the Saudi summer.



Storm Anniversary

Photos courtesy Defense Visual Information Center unless otherwise noted.



Photo courtesy Ft. McCoy PAO



Photo courtesy Ft. McCoy PAO

The journey begins: Soldiers from the 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta, Wis., board buses at Ft. McCoy. Buses were used to transport all deploying soldiers to the aerial port of embarkation.

Bridging the gap: Overcoming obstacles in the field is an everyday part of a soldier's life. Here soldiers training by crossing a rope bridge.



Community farewell: Entire communities, such as this one in Savannah, Ga., turn out to wish departing soldiers well as they begin the first leg of their trip to the Persian Gulf.

Saying goodbye:

Deploying soldiers prepare to board a C-141 at Volk Field before departing for the Desert Storm theater of operations.



In country: A soldier carries his gear after arriving in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield.



Up in smoke:

Reservists found themselves facing fire and smoke from burning oil wells once they hit the ground in the Persian Gulf. Numerous wells were set afire by Iraqi forces prior to their retreat from Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm.

Into the storm



All-terrain vehicle?: A Kuwaiti M-113 armored personnel carrier crosses a trench during a capabilities demonstration at a Kuwaiti outpost during Operation Desert Shield.



Business as usual: Some jobs have to get done no matter where you are. These soldiers catch up on some

Medical care: Soldiers serving in the Persian Gulf received medical care from reservists assigned to USAR medical units deployed to the area. More than 8,000 medical soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia. The USAR comprised 37 percent of the medical personnel in theater.



U.S. Army Reserve Photo



On the Job: It was all in day's work inspecting well-heads and checking them for possible demolitions left behind by fleeing Iraqi troops.





laundry, hanging it to dry under the desert sun.



Protect and defend: This Reservist stands ready to defend his position if necessary.

Photo courtesy Ft. McCoy PAO



A grim task: Military personnel sift through the remains of a warehouse hit by an Iraqi Scud missile Feb. 25, 1991, killing 27 U.S. Army Reserve personnel and wounding 100 others during Operation Desert Storm. The building housed the 475th Quartermaster Group (Provisional).



On target: An explosion scatters debris during a live-fire demonstration, part of Operation Desert Shield.

Feeding the masses: Reservists prepare a pallet of Meals-Ready-to-Eat for shipment.

Joint training: A Saudi Arabian soldier armed with a German 5.56mm Heckler and Koch HK 33B rifle participates in a live-fire exercise.



A deadly sting: A soldier gets instruction on the finer points of firing the infrared missile system known as a Stinger.



After the storm



Harrowing ordeal: Former prisoner of war Maj. Rhonda Lee Cornum, a flight surgeon assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 229th Aviation Brigade, sits next to U.S. Army Col. Richard Williams on a C-141B Starlifter transport aircraft after her release by the Iraqi government during Operation Desert Storm.



Victory celebration:

Fireworks light up the night sky above the Lincoln Memorial at the conclusion of the National Victory Celebration which is being held in honor of the Allied Forces' liberation of Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm.

A hearty welcome:

Crowd members gather to welcome returning troops following their participation in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm.





Meeting of the minds: Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf (right), commander-in-chief, U.S. Central Command, consults with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell in one of their many meetings during the conflict.



Photo courtesy Ft. McCoy PAO

Welcome home gift: A proud father meets the newest addition to his family, born while he was away participating in Operation Desert Storm.



Headline news: A young spectator holding up a newspaper with the headline "Welcome Home" during the National Victory Celebration parade honoring the coalition forces of Desert Storm.



USAR to the rescue

Reserve aviation unit helps National Park Service



Photo by Ed Quimby

(Top left) The research vessel Surf Surveyor and the box of computer equipment to be lifted to Wizard Island are moved into position by truck. (Bottom left) The CH-47D lands behind. A four-man Army Reserve Chinook helicopter crew from Company A, 5/159th Aviation Regiment, Ft. Lewis, Wash., uses two 120-foot lines to lift the research vessel from the crater rim. (Right and inset) The 26-foot, 11,000 pound craft is lowered 1,000 feet below the caldera. (right) The craft is set down safely on the lake's surface.

Story by Ed Quimby

CRATER LAKE, Ore.—When the U.S. Geological Survey first attempted to map the bottom of Crater Lake in 1886, the U.S. Army helped get the job done. A wooden boat, the Cleetwood, was transported by train from Portland to Ashland, then loaded on a pack horse convoy and hauled up to the rim of the crater, about 7,000 feet above sea level. There it was lashed to a sled and lowered over the side of the caldera wall, 1,000 feet down to the surface of the lake, using ropes and pulleys.

From that boat, William Steel used a spool of piano wire, weighted with a pipe for a sinker, to measure the depth. After performing more than 100 soundings, he determined the lake to be 1,996 feet deep. It is the nation's deepest lake.

For a far more technologically-advanced mapping project 114 years later, the U.S. Army Reserve helped get the job done. The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the National Park Service, had a 11,200 lb. research vessel, specifically equipped for sonar mapping, waiting in a cradle on a tractor and trailer near the rim. The R/V Surf Surveyor, trucked here from Louisiana, was originally scheduled to be lifted into the lake on July 24. But Mother Nature intervened.

"We fell victim to the wildfires that have been cropping up all over the West," said Mac Brock, the Park Service's chief of resource preservation and research at Crater Lake National Park. "We had contracted with a commercial helicopter company to move the ship last Monday, but before they could come, they were called to fight fires in Montana and Nevada."

The clock was ticking on the research permit and project contracts for putting the research vessel into this pristine wilderness lake. When high fire conditions sparked more major fires in ten Western states, Brock said, "it became clear to us that all of the commercial helicopter companies would be tied up on those fires. Our only hope of pulling this proj-

ect off was to ask the military for help."

Using the opportunity as an Army Reserve innovative readiness training mission, Company A of the 5/159th Aviation Regiment responded to the last minute call for help. On July 28 a crew of four, two pilots and two flight engineers, flew a Chinook helicopter south from Gray Army Airfield, Fort Lewis, Wash. It was the last day possible for lifting the boat into the lake.

The crew used two 120-foot sling lines to airlift the 26-foot research vessel into Crater Lake. The lake is accessible only from the air or a 1-mile-long footpath, the Cleetwood Trail, which was used for the 1886 survey. A second run took a 3,000 lb. box of computer equipment to Wizard Island, where the boat docked. Park Service ground crews at the rim and on the lake hooked and unhooked the loads. Reporters, photographers and videographers from regional newspapers and television stations were at the rim to cover the event.

Quick response to calls for help is business as usual for Company A of the 5/159th. Besides one-of-a-kind calls such as this mission, the unit is tasked with inserting and extracting National Park Service emergency search-and-rescue teams on Mount Rainier and other Northwest peaks. On July 24, the same week the unit lifted the survey boat onto Crater Lake, it flew a SAR mission at the 11,900-foot level of Mount Rainier to rescue a man hit by falling rock. He was lifted 50 feet into the cargo hold and transported to Madigan Army Medical Center for treatment of head injuries.

The Reserve unit also stations two CH-47Ds and a crew on standby during April through October each year at the Yakima Training Center, Wash., for fighting fires there within a one hour response time. On Aug. 1 while the geological crew sounded the depths of Crater Lake, the Yakima-based Chinook crew helped Yakima County firefighters battle a grass fire surging through 500 acres near South Naches Road. The flight



complete vital mission



Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey



Photo by Ed Quimby



Photo by Ed Quimby

Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

crew lifted bucket after bucket of water from Willow Lake and dumped it on some areas too steep and rugged to reach on foot.

Meanwhile at Crater Lake, the survey team spent long days running carefully plotted transects along the surface, which is about six miles across. The crater is left from when Mount Mazama, estimated to have been 12,000 feet high, blew its top about 7,000 years ago and collapsed into itself. Wizard Island, a cinder cone near the western shore of the steep-sided lake, was formed years later.

The Crater Lake survey project manager, Dr. James Gardner, USGS marine geologist, said that compared to the last sonar mapping of the lake in 1959, this one, "using a high-resolution multi-beam echo sounder, is vastly different and more accurate." The 1959 survey used

echo-sounding technology, measuring the time taken to bounce sound off the lake floor, to collect information at over 6,000 locations. The current study uses an acoustic mapping system mounted to the bottom of the survey boat, which is also loaded with receivers and computerized data recording equipment, to collect millions of depth soundings.

After six days the survey crew had finished its task. With wildfires still burning in Western states and commercial helicopters still unavailable, the Reserve unit was called back on Aug. 3 to fly the \$3 million boat and \$200,000 box of computer equipment to the rim.

"We are very grateful to the military," said Park Superintendent Chuck Lundy. "Without their help we could not have conducted this valuable research project."

(Mr. Quimby is with the 70th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office.)

Training

Reserve drill sergeants take on motivation challenge



(Clockwise) Staff Sgt. Max Hermans gives the trainees a taste of physical training, starting with pushups during the Blue Devil Basic Challenge. Staff Sgt. Joseph Koeck empties and checks a trainee's bags for contraband. Staff Sgt. Louis Steffes stares down a recruit as part of the pre-basic training program. Sgt. 1st Class Russell Tapley conducts an inspection. Staff Sgt. Danetta Hurt looks on as Staff Sgt. Todd Bacon gives instructions.

Story and photos by Bill Geddes

"We try to give them the right mental attitude.... They're going there to learn to be a soldier and how to survive on the battlefield."

Staff Sgt. Todd Bacon

FORT MCCOY, Wisc.—In the early morning hours, pre-basic trainees can be heard sounding off—clearly motivated. Motivated and more ready to ship for basic training than they had been less than 48 hours before.

It is all part of the Blue Devil Basic Challenge, a pre-basic training program hosted by the 646th Area Support Group (ASG). The program is designed to decrease the number of trainees that enlist, but fail to show up for basic training. It also prepares trainees for basic – and provides the Reserve drill sergeants some valuable training.

The "no show" rate is the big focus. A booming economy, low unemployment rates and more and more companies offering education benefits have affected the Army recruiting effort.

"In my unit up in Ladysmith (Wis.), where I work as a unit administrator, we had 12 soldiers who were supposed to ship one summer—eight of them never shipped," said the initiator of the Blue Devil Basic Challenge program, Command Sgt. Maj. John Vacho, 376th Finance Battalion, 646th Area Support Group, 88th Regional Support Command, Ft. Snelling, Minn.

"It was 'My knee is acting up' or 'It's my trick elbow' – for whatever reason, they didn't go" Vacho said. "Well what's the real reason? Are they afraid of (the drill sergeants)? Let's intro-

duce them to the drill sergeants now and let them know they're human beings

– let's get them training."

Addressing the perception trainees have of the military is seen to be key – especially with less than six percent of the population under the age of 60 having ever served in the military.

"The demographics have changed," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Campbell, 84th Training Division, Milwaukee, Wisc.

"Most of the young soldiers who enlist now don't have a dad or a relative who have been in the military. The recruits now haven't heard the war stories, they don't know very much about the military. These young soldiers that have enlisted need to know that they can go to basic training and they can make it – millions before them have done it."

The results of the Blue Devil Basic Challenge remain to be seen – but this sort of program has already been proven successful. The Wisconsin National Guard has had this sort of program in place for a few years, according to Sgt. 1st Class Russell Tapley, a drill sergeant for the 84th Training Division. In that time they have cut their no-show rate from 25 percent to 2 percent, and it is now mandatory that trainees that are delayed shippers go to the program before they ship to basic training.

Helping the young soldiers prepare to ship to basic training is how the drill sergeants of the 84th come into play.

"When they walk out the door I want these soldiers to be the squad leaders and platoon guides," said Staff Sgt. Danetta Hurt, a drill sergeant with the 84th. "That way they can instill into the other privates that they meet in basic training the fac-

See BASIC, page 31



Training

Army Reserve helicopters descend upon Fort Hood

Story & photos by Tony Johnson

FORT HOOD, Texas—The longhorn cattle and coyotes wandering around the Fort Hood training fields hardly noticed the more than two-dozen Army Reserve Apache and Chinook helicopters flying above them, but the impression left on Fort Hood units was significant. For the soldiers of the 7th Battalion of the 158th Aviation Regiment and the 7th Squadron of the 6th Cavalry Regiment, the trip to Fort Hood was the opportunity to combine training with some “real-world” missions.

“We’re staying busy, and doing what we train to do,” said Spec. Patrick Jellison, a power-train repairer, with F Company of the 7/158th based in Olathe, Kan. “We’ve got a lot of new members in the unit and this is good experience for everyone.”

Both the 7/158th and 7/6th were at Fort Hood in June to conduct their two-week annual training. The 7/158th is a CH-47D Chinook unit with a newly activated battalion headquarters and company at Fort Hood along with companies in Kansas, and Fort Carson, Colo.

The primary mission for the Chinooks during their annual training was to support the 7/6th Cavalry Regiment, an Apache unit, based in Conroe, Texas. The Apache unit was at Fort Hood to conduct gunnery training for its crews.

The Chinooks provide a heavy-lift capability and are used to transport equipment, supplies and personnel. They are also used for fire suppression in the event an Apache accidentally starts a range fire while conducting gunnery. It is not uncommon, especially during summer months, for small brush fires to be started by the target practice.

The Chinooks have the capacity to be equipped with 2000-gallon water buckets, which can be filled and then poured over a fire.

“It’s great having the Chinooks here to provide support,” said Spec. Jerry Storch, a mechanic with the 7/6th. “We couldn’t do



(Clockwise from top) A HUMVEE is carried by a Chinook across a training area. A cargo container is transported by the same method. Spec. Patrick Jellison works to secure the camouflage netting covering equipment in the field during annual training at Fort Hood, Texas. Sgt. Dave Rutter (foreground) and Sgt. Dave Preston work on one of the Chinooks.

See 158TH, page 31

U.S. Reservists shoot with Germans, conduct exchange



(Left) Sgt. Maj. James Winslow (foreground) and Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Hills, from the 7th Army Reserve Command's 313th Rear Operations Center, fire the German Army's Walther P-1 pistol at Kaserne Auf Der Ell, near Merzig, Germany. Observing is German reservist Lt. Col. Michael Hocke. **(Below)** Sgt. 1st Class Hills fires the German Army's H&K G-3 rifle.



KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany—Reservists with the European-based 7th U.S. Army Reserve Command's 313th Rear Operations Center (ROC) recently participated in a partnership exchange with German Reservists. The citizen-soldiers participated in weapons firing at the host nation's Kaserne Auf Der Ell, near Merzig in the Saarland region and toured area military fortifications.

The partnership initiative was intended to resurrect old ties with German Reservists that were dormant during the 313th ROC's mobilization and deployment in Operation Joint Endeavor. The U.S. Reservists received pointers on marksmanship and familiarization training on both the German H&K G-3 rifle and the Walther P-1 pistol prior to firing the weapons.

As the German G-3 rifle is 7.62-millimeter caliber, it provided quite a "kick" to the U.S. shooters, who were familiar only with the less powerful M16 rifle (5.56-mm). The Americans found the G-3 to be more accurate and powerful (and much heavier) than the M-16. Targets were engaged from the prone supported position at a range of 200 meters. Next, the soldiers moved to the 25 meter pistol range and fired the German P-1 pistol, which was light compared with the M-9, but very accurate.

Following the range firing, the Americans were treated to a tour of nearby fortifications once part of the West Wall or Siegfried Line. Constructed between 1936-1939 from designs originating in the 1920's, they were part of a string of German defenses, which ran 630 kilometers long - from Basel, Switzerland in the south, to Aachen, Germany in the north. The German host for the event, Lt. Col. Hocke, provided a description of wartime events during 1944-1945. Two local historians, Werner Scherer and Walter Engel, then provided a detailed tour of the fortifications.

The tour began on top of the fortification called a "B-Werk." Mr. Scherer explained that the forts had interlocking fields of fire and covered each other's approach. Area bunkers were designed to hold 90 men for a period of 33 days. Bunker occupants required special training,

similar to submarine training, in order to serve in their deep defensive locations.

One fort was an immense three-story complex of 44 rooms built into a hillside. The upper floor, or obergeschoss, contained armaments, access to the weapons cupolas, and watchposts. Installed during the war were a variety of weapons, including a 50-millimeter automatic grenade launcher, flamethrower, and machine guns. The upper floor also housed the command and control center for the bunker.

The fortification was a local control center and could communicate with the entire West Wall via an underground telephone communications system. The lower floor, or untergeschoss, held the machinery, kitchens, washrooms, munitions storage, chemical filtration system and workrooms. Two diesel generators provided electric power for air and water pumps, the electric heating system, lights and weapons. The complex's generators were removed after World War II and are still in use powering a local factory. Portions of the fort are still not excavated due to safety considerations.

After the day was over, the Americans joined their German counterparts in a recognition ceremony highlighted by Lt. Col. Hocke's presentation of a German bronze medal, which was given to his uncle for service in the building of the West Wall in 1939.

This partnership event was reflective of a variety of such activities undertaken by the European-based reservists of the 7th ARCOM. The command also conducts an active battlestaff ride training program, which takes command soldiers to historic battlefields throughout Europe.

(Maj. Mark D. Arvidson, 313th ROC, along with Maj. Burt Masters, 7th ARCOM PAO, contributed to this article.)

Army Reserve couple

‘The family that trains together...’

Story & photo by Spc. Scott A. Holdsworth

FORT DIX (Army Reserve Training Installation), N.J.—

Marriage in itself can be very challenging. Being married and serving in the military together can often add to that challenge. For Sergeants Allan, that is Sgt. Jim Allan and Sgt. Amy Allan, 277th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit located in Niagara Falls, New York, it's a fact of life.

Amy, an Army medic, originally from Blackfoot, Idaho, and Jim, a mechanic from Alden, New York, were serving on active duty in Germany when they first met.

Shortly after the couple became engaged, Amy was reassigned to Fort Irwin, Calif.. On February 19, 1995, while she was on leave between assignments, they were married in Jim's hometown. After the wedding, Jim returned to Germany to complete his active duty assignment and Amy moved to California.

The Allans spent their first nine months as husband and wife apart. According to some of Jim's friends, the hardest part of marriage is the first year, so he thinks missing the first nine months was probably an advantage.

After Amy completed her active duty assignment, the couple moved to Alden, N.Y., where Jim joined the 277th and Amy, a nearby medical unit. Jim says it was hard being in different units because there were at least two weekends a month that they were apart to attend a drill. Nearly two years after Jim joined the 277th, Amy transferred into the unit and reclassified as a fuel handler.

Being together now has brought an interesting twist to their relationship, both personal and in the Army Reserve.

Even though their military skills in the unit are very different, they have similarities. One works as a mechanic and the other a fuel handler, but both serve as unit retention NCOs. They work in the same office and even share the same desk.

According to Sgt. Mark Henry, a member of the 277th and friend of

Jim, it is funny seeing them together in the unit. Even though you would never know that they are married, he says, they have a certain atmosphere around them when they are together.

“When they get going everyone works faster,” says Henry.

“He's a very good asset and has a lot of enthusiasm,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Patrick Patterson, the 277th's Maintenance officer. “He has a lot of patience and is able to teach the younger guys in the unit well.”

Though Patterson is his senior, he respects him and says that the troops do also.

“He is one of the better mechanics in the unit,” Patterson said.

Both sergeants love their jobs in the Army Reserve, and serving together.

“We support and help each other whenever we can,” said Amy. “We are fortunate to be able to work together as retention NCOs and strive to always be professional.”

The couple lives in Alden where Jim works as a welder in his civilian career. Amy is a student at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, and works as a waitress.

(Spc. Holdsworth is with the 358th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Salt Lake City, Utah)



Sergeants Jim and Amy Allan, retention NCOs for the 277th Quartermaster Company of Niagara Falls, N.Y., attend their second military training exercise together at Ft. Dix.

Reservist and local businesses create summer fun for teens

By Leslie Ann Sully

Brevard, N.C.—Randy Lytle, from Brevard, is a man with many hats, even during the summer. He has worked in the guidance department of Brevard High School for seven years and is also a Football and Track and Field Coach at the school. Lytle is also a captain in the Army Reserve, currently serving as the Detachment Commander for the 429th Chemical Detachment in Atlanta, Ga.

But the summer is no rest period for him. He still heads to the field.

Becoming the Track and Field Coach for the Junior Olympics team during the summer occurred because one of his students asked him to do it. At first he said he wasn't so sure but then decided it would be yet another way to get to know the kids and help them. Also, he said that with his involvement with the kids from the high school teams he already coached, he knew that some did not have constructive things to do during the summer.

The Junior Olympic team, which is under the USA Track and Field Association, has set meets for the summer months and is broken down into age groups. Lytle's team encompasses the 14-18-year-olds. “The kids have different reasons for joining the team,” Lytle said, “some for something to do during the summer, others to improve their athletic skills and others for the opportunity to compete which they can not do during the school year for various reasons.”

Lytle started a team four years ago with three kids. The expenses were minimal, so he paid for them himself. But this year, he had 21 kids start and 16 that stayed for the whole program. He decided it was time to get help.

Six companies helped the team this summer to include: U.S. Army, Transylvania Youth Association—a United Way Agency, Smith Systems, John Johnson Ford, Transylvania Citizens

Improvement Organization and Transylvania County Citizens

See COACH, next page 31

Army 'wise guy'

Commander increases word power through humor

By Michael Norris

WASHINGTON—It's been said that the pun — a play on the multiple meaning of a word — is the lowest form of humor.

Mark Wise, an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) lieutenant colonel and commander of the North East Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center, Fort Dix Army Reserve Installation, NJ, disagrees. He believes the much-maligned pun is an elevating art form that disarmingly increases word power through the use of humor. Wise has committed himself to transforming this oral and literary device into a visual medium by creating the comic strip Punzilla, which illustrates his personally crafted puns.

This is the second incarnation of the comic strip. Wise, who doesn't consider himself much of an artist, has collaborated with two cartoonists who have illustrated his ideas at different points in time. The first version ran in the Fort Hamilton, N.Y., installation newspaper, The Harbour Watch for about a year in the 90s. Wise has since revived the strip and has high hopes for the recent version, which partners him with Australian artist John Martin.

"My main goal is getting the next Far Side

started," Wise said, pointing out that he doesn't mean to compare himself with cartoonist Gary Larson but wants to emphasize that Punzilla is a one-of-a-kind comic strip.

"This is a unique cartoon in every sense," he enthused. "My premise is educational humor. It increases your vocabulary through understanding the double and sometimes triple meaning of words."

Wise said the ideas for his panels come up in varying situations: at the office, while jogging and at home. He carries a notepad with him so that he can scribble down concepts when they come to him.

The origin of the title, Punzilla, he said came about because "a pun will wrap itself around you much like King Kong wrapped itself around the Empire State Building."

Wise has amassed a collection of some 500 puns. He hopes to compile them for a book he is working on about the subject. For his strip he tries to avoid the suggested wordplay of colleagues, friends and families because he wants to rely on his own ideas.

"I religiously stay away from listening to other people's puns," he said. "I want to keep the strip as original as possible. I can see a pun in almost any situation."

While his family is supportive, it isn't necessarily a creative springboard for his humor.

"My family doesn't help with any inspiration but I cause them a lot of perspiration," he joked. "I tell them not to sweat it."

A conversation with Wise is likely to turn up a half dozen such gems or groaners. "I've got a million of 'em," he said, adding that his kids sometimes tell him, "Please dad, not in public."

Wise recollects that his own first pun came to him at about the age of 10 when his mother was cooking items for a bake sale. He looked around the kitchen at the various confectionaries and told his mom the place looked deserted.

"Puns are kind of like Howard Cosell," Wise added, invoking the abrasive but widely watched '70s television football commentator. "They're something you love to hate."

In developing the idea, I tried to stay



away from a regular character," he said. "Each strip deals with a different aspect of life. Only the logo, a jester-hatted lizard shown leaping for joy, remains the same."

Wise said he is known as a wit around the office. "How many battalion commanders would unleash a barrage of puns at a soldier instead of an Article 15?" he asked. "People have always encouraged me through their laughter."

If the cartoon takes off Wises says he's hoping to parlay it into a second career when he retires from the Army in a few years — either that or teach Spanish at the high school or college level.

Whatever its fortune, the cartoon is a labor of love, and Wise is likely to keep at it, no matter if it fails to gain mass commercial acceptance.

"Ninety-five percent of the people I show it to love it," he said. "Even if it wasn't successful I'd keep doing it. I'm extremely proud of the product. Some of the greatest ideas in the world started out having been rejected."

(Mr. Norris is a staff writer for the 'Pentagram')



Inaugural Army Arch Run a success

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Under blue skies and cool temperatures The Inaugural Army Arch Run Half-Marathon was held on Armed Forces Day, May 20, in St. Louis, Mo. The run, hosted by the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM), and run by Fleet Feet Sports, Inc., marked the beginning of an annual event to recognize Armed Forces Day and the contributions of the men and women of the Armed Forces. It also provided a tie between military agencies and the St. Louis community.

More than 400 participants ran their way through the 13.1 mile, moderately hilly, USA Track and Field-certified course. The race began in suburban St. Louis at AR-PERSCOM Headquarters and finished downtown just south of the



(Left) Arch run winner, Ronald Chisolm, of University City, Mo., finished the course in a swift one hour, eleven minutes and ten seconds. A view of the finish area by the Gateway Arch and the Mississippi River in downtown St. Louis. The Army hot air balloon is tethered behind the grandstand area.

Gateway Arch on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River.



The winner, Ronald Chisolm, of University City, Mo., ran the course in a swift one hour, eleven minutes and ten seconds. "This was a great course and surprisingly fast," said Chisolm. "I was initially conserving my energy not really knowing how the course would be," Chisolm added.

There were five military teams entered representing Fort Leonard Wood, AR-PERSCOM and the Gateway ROTC Battalion. Individually, there were runners from the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Fort Polk, Scott Air Force Base, Fort

Leonard Wood, AR-PERSCOM and the Gateway ROTC Battalion.

Runners ranged in age from 11 years to 73.

(NOTE: The final results of the Army Arch Run are posted on Fleet Feet Sports web page at: <http://www.fleetfeetsports.com/archresults.htm>)

AGR Competes in the Bataan Memorial Death March

By 1st Lt. George Meyer

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M.—As the sun rose over the warm New Mexico desert of White Sands Missile Range soldiers stepped off on a 26.2-mile marathon.

It was the beginning of the annual Bataan Memorial Death March, conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Phillipine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health and, in many cases, their very lives.

While most marathons take place on a paved surface, the Bataan Death March course consists of partially paved, dirt trails and deep sand with elevation gains from 4,100 to 5,300 ft.

Increasing the challenge is the fact that participants in the heavy division complete the march in Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) carrying a 35-lb. ruck sack.

Among this year's heavy division marchers were, 1st Lt. George Meyer, an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) officer and Assistant S3 from the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, Broken Arrow, Okla.

Although he is a veteran of numerous race events, he says this was different.

"Take a decent marathon time and times it by two – that is a realistic finishing time for a participant in the heavy division," says Meyer who was participating for the first time in the death march.

"As I marched, I thought about the thousands of POWs who endured unimaginable hardship and death at the hands of their captors - this march is difficult, but it pales in comparison to what the WWII veterans had to endure," he noted.

"These brave soldiers were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines. The conditions they encountered and the aftermath of the battle were unique. They fought in a malaria-infested region, surviving on half or

quarter rations with little or no medical help."

(To learn more about the Bataan Memorial Death March or see race results and get information on next year's event, visit the web site at <http://www.wsmr.army.mil/paopage/PAGES/BMDM/index.htm>)



1st Lt. George Meyer weighs his ruck prior to the race.

U.S. Army photo

A woman with 'clout'

Female boxer who won't quit

Story & photos by Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes

Quitting is easy...and quitting is exactly what most people expected when Christa Hoffman first talked about tying on a pair of boxing gloves and stepping into the ring two years ago.

"My uncle said, 'Oh that's just something you're going to do for a while and stop,'" Hoffman said. "I think that made me want to do it even more, because he was doubting me and I had really planned on it."

The 20-year-old automated logistics specialist with the 209th Quartermaster Company, Lafayette, Ind., started looking for a contact sport she could participate while in high school, but sports like wrestling and football weren't available to girls. Then she turned on ESPN.

"I was watching television and I saw Christy Martin, who actually kind of made women's boxing, and I thought, 'Omigosh, that's cool, I want to do that,'" Hoffman said.

Knowing she would be going to Ball State for college, Hoffman called the Muncie Police Athletic League and asked Donnie Garrett, the Muncie PAL director, if she could enroll in a boxing program there.

"I get calls year round from people interested in boxing," Garrett said. "She was unusual being from a small town, still in high school – and she was a girl. You don't dare say no. Is (a female boxing) something I would encourage? Not necessarily. But I told her to come on out."

Eight months later Hoffman did just that when she started school at Ball State.

"I figured a couple of hard practices and she'd be done," Garrett said. "That didn't work. But there's a big difference between training and actually getting hit. So I figured she'd get hit hard once, and that'd be it. That didn't work either."

Hoffman's coach, Mark Lemerick, wasn't too thrilled with having a female boxer either. "When women were starting to come to the gym – I didn't want any part of it. I tried to run her out."

But Lemerick didn't run her out. Hoffman kept coming back for more – and in fact started pushing the male fighters while training.

"She doesn't whine or cry around about push-ups or bag work, she gets right in there," said Garrett. "We have guys that run track or cross country or are rated in the top ten in the nation for their weight class in boxing. When we go running, she comes in first or a close second." Not that Hoffman could beat most of those boxers in the ring – the physical differences between men and women prevent that. She does spar with them however, and has proven she can handle it.

"I can take a punch fine," Hoffman said. "Sometimes the guys in the



(left) Spec. Christa Hoffman, a logistics specialist with the 209th QM Co., trains for her match at the 2000 Everlast Women's National Championships. (above) She listens to her coach while training for her match.

gym will hit me with a real good one and swing me around a little bit, and I'll be like 'whoa,' but it's nothing that's going to keep me from boxing.

Hoffman can dish it out too — something Garrett can attest to. A former boxer at both the amateur and professional level, he sparred with Hoffman and was surprised at her aggressiveness.

"She's real competitive," Garrett said. "She started getting me really good, and I had to hit her a good one to get her off me. I felt bad doing it, but if you're boxing with her you better get in there with her — cause if you don't, she's going to slap the taste right out of your mouth."

The competitiveness shows up in everything Hoffman does. "Losing is not a word that's in her vocabulary," Garrett said. "She just doesn't do it well. She wants to win at everything. You do not want to be around her after she loses."

That competitiveness is actually part of what got Hoffman involved in boxing in the first place, according to Garrett. "She needed money to help for college, so she joined the Army Reserve," Garrett said. "She wanted a sport that would help her excel in the Army, because they place a high value on physical fitness. The Army helped pay for her education – and she also got real good at boxing."

Hoffman was undefeated for a long time then lost to the then num-

See BOXER, page 30



Snapshots



Playing with fire?

Photos by Master Sgt. Chet Marcus

(Left) Sgt. Betty Conley, a petroleum distribution specialist with the 173rd Quartermaster Company, Greenwood, Miss., makes final adjustments to her fire suit with the help of an instructor. She participated in a petroleum distribution training exercise during which she was part of a two-man team required to extinguish a 2,000 plus degree diesel fuel fire (below) using a powder and foam high-pressure hose system.



Making a powerful



Double duty



U.S. Army photos

Meet Lt. Col. Alan Rosenfield the Army Reserve Staff Judge Advocate for the 311th Support Command (Corps), Los Angeles, Ca. Also meet Judge Alan Rosenfield of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, Ca. As if his "double duty" isn't enough to impress...Rosenfield was recently selected as the Judge Advocates Association "Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney" for the Army Reserve.



statement



Photo courtesy 9th RSC Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Anthony Harris lifts his way to a Bronze Medal during the 1999 International Powerlifting Men's World Championships in Trento, Italy. Harris is a senior marine engineman for the Marine Operations unit, 9th RSC, Honolulu, Hawaii. He holds 9 state records, 2 American, 2 national and one world title in 4 different weight classes of powerlifting, squat lifts, and dead lifts.

America's heroes



Photos by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

(Top) Former Pvt. Shizuya Hayashi poses with his escorts, Maj. Curt Doescher and Active Guard/Reserve Master Sgt. Vicki Washington. (Bottom) President Bill Clinton presents the Medal of Honor to Senator Daniel Inouye during a June White House ceremony. In all, 22 medals were presented to Asian Pacific American U.S. Army veterans or their next-of-kin.

All in the family



Photo by Anna Buonagura

Three generations stood tall with pride joined by blood and love of country. An emotional grandfather, former Army Staff Sgt. Maurice Clark recited a portion of the oath of office to his grandson Michael Clark as he enlisted in the Army Reserve's 405th Combat Support Hospital. The unit's commander, who's Michael's father, Capt. David Clark, shared in the experience administering another portion of the oath during the May 6th ceremony.

Winners of the Secretary of the Army 22nd Annual Energy Conservation Award



Photo by Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

(Left to Right) 1st place Ft. McCoy, Wisc., represented by Command Sgt. Maj. Nick Piacentini and John Ryder ; 2nd place 70th RSC, Ft. Lawton, Wash., represented by John Holland and Col. Tom Bonorden; 3rd place Hqtrs. 63rd RSC, Los Alamitos, Calif., represented by Kent Jackson and Col. William Foster.

VA From page 6

itary medical facility,” he said. “This will help reduce the time reservists spend away from training to pursue medical and dental evaluations.”

Equally important, the program will not interfere with veterans’ access to services.

“In fact, FEDS-HEAL is designed to provide additional revenue that can be used to expand veteran services,” he said.

Units can request medical and dental services for their soldiers and receive approval and a service site through a central automated system developed during the pilot program, Donahue said.

FEDS-HEAL will also relieve medical units from having to administer routine exams and screenings, will help create a better tracking system for medical and dental readiness and cost, and will offset a decrease in available military medical facilities due to downsizing, he said.

SURVEY From page 6

leave or continue in the military, and member and family characteristics. The effort complements the recently fielded “1999 Surveys of Active Duty Personnel and Spouses.”

The sample population was determined by component, pay grade, gender, marital status, military occupation, and program status (drilling reservists, full-time support personnel, IMAs). Individuals were selected at random within these groups to ensure adequate sample sizes for subgroups of particular interest.

Spouses of members were selected separately from members—sampling was of individuals rather than couples. Consequently, a spouse could be sampled whether or not the member is.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) will use the

Donahue estimates that up to 45,000 more reservists and guardsmen will benefit next year when FEDS-HEAL is expanded even further.

A memorandum of understanding paved the way for the program expansion.

The agreement was recently signed by Patrick T. Henry, assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs, and Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, VA’s acting under secretary for health. The Army/VA agreement mirrors one signed last year between the Army and the Department of Health and Human Services and formalized the Federal Strategic Health Alliance between the three agencies.

(Editor’s note: For more information, please contact Office of the Chief, Army Reserve Public Affairs, (703) 601-0859.)

findings from these surveys to address reservists’ concerns and inform policy officials about unit and family readiness issues, military job satisfaction and mobilization experiences. The information will also be used to respond to queries from Congress, the White House, and the news media. Survey results will be published and available on the World Wide Web by the spring of 2001.

“As a department, we must continually strive to do a better job of recognizing and dealing with issues that can adversely affect Reserve component members and their families,” said Cragin. “Our ultimate objective is to craft policies that benefit reservists and, at the same time, protect our national security interests. The empirical data we gain from these surveys is critical to accomplishing this.”

NAACP From page 11

The ceremony was followed by an informal buffet luncheon and selection of music performed by the 307th, where special guests of the Chief, Army Reserve, the soldiers of the 949th Transportation Company, and the Madison family enjoyed an afternoon of music “on the water.”

“I’m glad my children can be here as they honor (their father) him.

When I look at my son, I still see him (Spec. Madison) every day. He looks exactly like his daddy.”

(Mr. Gordon is with the 99th RSC Public Affairs Office)

BOXER From page 27

ber one fighter in the 125-pound weight class, 30-year-old Deirdre Fabian. “It was a split decision to a woman who has been dominating her division,” Garrett said. “(Hoffman) has only lost to the number one and two ranked boxers in her weight class – both twice and in close fights.”

One of those losses occurred recently in Midland, Texas, at the 2000 Everlast Woman’s National Championships, to the number one ranked Adelaida Avalos, Whittier, Calif., who Hoffman was unfortunate enough to get as her first draw.

“It was a good tough fight,” Avalos said after the fight. “She’s a skilled fighter, and strong. When my coach asked me who my toughest opponent would be, I said Christa Hoffman.”

While Hoffman took the loss hard, she still had no quit in her. “I’m just going to go back to the gym and work harder,” she said. “I know what I have to work on. That’s what I’ll continue to do. My ultimate goal is still the same.

“I want to go to the Olympics,” she said. (Woman’s boxing is not yet an Olympic event, but USA Boxing expects it to be one by the 2008

Olympics.) “I think that’s doable, I’m right up there with the top people right now.”

Jeanene Hildebrandt, vice president of Indiana Amateur Boxing, agrees, having watched Hoffman since she started boxing. “I have a lot of hope for Christa, I think she’s going to be the future of this sport,” Hildebrandt said. “Christa is the teacher for Indiana women boxers.”

Hoffman has made believers out of Lemerick and Garrett too, both of whom say their attitude towards women boxers has been changed by their exposure to Hoffman. “Once she wins this tournament, she’ll win as long as she wants to,” Lemerick said. “I just don’t see anyone coming up who’s going to work as hard as she does.”

“Her one weak point is her experience,” said Garrett. (Hoffman typically fights women who have six to 10 years of experience on her.) “She gets better there with every fight. I could see someone stopping her by knocking her out with a lucky punch maybe, but they’d have to stop her. Quitting – that’s not in her vocabulary either.”

(Staff Sgt. Geddes is with the 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 88th Regional Support Command, Fort Snelling, Minn.)

BASIC From page 20

tors that are important, the Army Values and the teamwork.”

Hurt and the rest of the drill sergeants do this through classes and instruction in everything from Army Values and teamwork, to how to march, stand at attention — and oh yeah, push-ups. Lots of push-ups.

“We want to give them a taste of what basic training is really like,” said Staff Sgt. Todd Bacon, another 84th drill sergeant.

“We try to give them the right mental attitude. They’re going there; they’re going to get yelled at, but they are not getting picked on. They’re going there to learn to be a soldier and how to survive on the battlefield. We try to get them to understand that they’re not going there for someone to just take out their aggressions on them, it all has purpose.”

Not that the drill sergeants have carte blanche when dealing with the trainees.

“There are a few more restrictions imposed on us when dealing with orientation prior to basic,” Bacon stressed. “It is a much more relaxed environment. This is very low stress compared to what the soldiers will get in basic training.”

158th From page 22

our mission without them.” Storch, a resident of Conroe, has been with his unit for two years.

Larry Ximenez, the range control officer for Fort Hood, echoed Storch’s comment from a fire fighting standpoint.

“In the past we’ve used Blackhawk helicopters for fire suppression but they can only lift a 600 gallon water bucket. The Chinooks can move more water and stop the fires faster.” And that’s important on the 67,000 square acre installation.

In addition to supporting the Apaches and providing fire suppression, the Chinooks are used for other missions as well.

“We’re working with some of the active Army units here at Fort Hood, helping them with their training missions,” said Lt. Col. Chuck Fletcher, commander of the 7/158th. “That’s good experience for our crews since these are exactly the types of missions they would do if deployed.”

Nearly 300 Reservists, 172 with the 7/6th and 127 with the 7/158th, were at Fort Hood for the exercise. Including 1st Sgt. Ron Raines and his son, Spec. Richard Raines, both from Kansas. 1st Sgt. Raines, from Bucyrus, has been with the 7th/158th since 1973. Spec. Raines, of Lawrence, joined the unit in 1996. This is the second annual training exercise the father and son have attended together and both admitted that they hardly ever see each other while out in the field.

“I usually see Richard at morning mess and then that’s it.

COACH From page 24

Concerned for Children.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Breault, the Army recruiter whose work area includes Brevard, was instrumental in getting the Army to support the team. Breault, of the Army Recruiting Office in Hendersonville, N.C., has worked with Lytle throughout the school year and he said he sees all the good that Lytle accomplishes. “He (Lytle) is a busy man but whenever I ask him for something, he does what he can to help. I thought this would be a win-win for both our organizations and a way I could support him.”

Lytle has learned to juggle all these jobs partly from his Army experience. He credits his father for making the decision to join the Army. “My father pushed the military involvement because he thought it would make me a better man,” Lytle said. He said he now thinks his father was right. “The experiences are unmatched by any other means,” Lytle said

It’s just as well that it was low stress. Or lower stress might be more accurate. “I was nervous we might lose them all,” said Vacho. “After seeing how far (the drill sergeants) went last night, I expected half the parking lot to be empty in the morning. It wasn’t.”

As a matter of fact, the trainees were already starting to come together. “I see a lot of them coming around,” Vacho pointed out. “You can see it by the minute, it’s progressing rather rapidly.”

Not only were the trainees coming together, they actually enjoyed it — or at least saw that it was benefiting them.

“I think it’s productive, I’m glad we’re doing it,” said Pvt. Randall Prudhon, an Evansville, Wis., resident who is enlisting as a combat engineer. “It will give me an edge at basic training.”

An edge other 88th RSC recruits soon should have too.

“I would like to see all the Area Support Groups promoting a program like this immediately,” said 88th Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner. “We need to get on board now.

(Bill Geddes is with the 88th RSC Public Affairs Office)

Everyone’s staying real busy,” said 1st Sgt. Raines.

“We’re busy, but having a good time,” said Spec. Raines. “I did get to ride with my dad on the convoy on the way here from Kansas and that’s when I told him he’s going to be a grandfather.” Spec. Raines and his wife are expecting their first child, which will be 1st Sgt. Raines first grandchild.

Sgt. David Preston, a flight engineer with the 7/158th, said he joined A Company at Fort Hood because he liked the idea of being part of unit as it was just starting up. The unit was activated at Fort Hood in October and is currently taking delivery of its helicopters and recruiting personnel.

“We’re going to have the chance to stay real busy at Fort Hood, with lots of different missions,” said Preston.

“In addition to our annual training exercises, we expect that A Company here at Fort Hood will be called on throughout the year for support,” said Fletcher.

“Even after the other aircraft go back to Conroe and Olathe, we’ll still have Chinooks here at Fort Hood.” The newly activated unit gives Fort Hood a heavy-lift helicopter capability where none existed before.

And while the soldiers at Fort Hood will probably notice them, the longhorns and coyotes will probably still ignore the Chinooks flying overhead.

(Tony Johnson is with the U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs Office, Ft. McPherson, Ga.)

of his 13 years of military service. He said he chose the Reserves as a compromise with his father and has never regretted that decision.

The team competes in four meets during the summer: sectional, state, regionals and then nationals. For Fleet Express, the season is over because no one advanced to the final meet.

Lytle’s team is named Fleet Express after his own nickname of Fleet. Back when he was on the high school football team, a picture appeared in the paper as Lytle was running to make a touchdown. The sports editor captioned the picture as “Randy Fleet Lytle” because he saw Lytle outrun the other players.

For more information about the team, call Lytle at 828-884-2946 or about Army opportunities, call Breault at 828-697-1336.

(Ms. Sully is a Public Affairs Specialist with the Columbia Army Recruiting Battalion)



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